

**FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES
OF
SIKKIM RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TIBETOLOGY**



H. H. Gyelwa Karmapa handing over the scriptures to the H. E. Governor of Sikkim/President : SRIT

H. H. XVI Gyalwa Karmapa's Presentation of Religious Scriptures to Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology

It is after more than two decades of the foundation-laying ceremony of the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology by H. H. the Dalai Lama and its formal inauguration by the late lamented Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sikkim witnessed the most important event on the 24th February, 1981 of the ceremonial presentation of a complete set of Tibetan canonical literature (Kanjur—bkah-hgyur, Derge, edition), consisting of 103 volumes and 45 other valuable Tantric texts presented by H. H. Gyalwa Karmapa of the Dharma Chakra Centre, Rumtek. It is indeed an unique event in Sikkim's religious history.

The ceremony was performed on the ground floor of the General Library Hall which is dominated by the majestic silver image of Manjushri Bodhisattva with dazzling brilliance.

H. E. the Governor of Sikkim Shri Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan, President of the Institute and Sarbang (Procession of monks carrying banners, incense and musical instruments) received His Holiness with melody of gyaling (monastic clarionet) and ragdhung (monastic brass trumpet). The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, the State Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, several incarnate Rinpoches, senior Civil and Army Officials and the respectable gentry also greeted His Holiness with the offer of khadas [scarves].

The President of SRIT then conducted His Holiness to the Hall colourfully and tastefully decorated with flowers and branches of cherry blossoms and ancient exquisite thangkas [painted scrolls] when the large gathering stood up in honour of His Holiness.

His Holiness then offered Khada [scarf] to the silver image of Bodhisattva Manjushri and lit the Holy Butter lamp conferring divine blessing to the audience.

Speaking on the occasion H. E. the Governor of Sikkim Shri Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan warmly thanked His Holiness for the presentation and expressed that these scriptures would further enrich the Institute library already possessing a vast collection of Buddhist literature both Tibetan and non-Tibetan. He also expressed the hope that these would contribute substantially to promote the research work being carried out here by the scholars

H. E. the Governor recalled that this Institute was inaugurated by our beloved Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1958 and announced that it would celebrate its Silver Jubilee in December 1981, when His illustrious daughter and our great Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi would formally inaugurate the Jubilee Celebrations. In this context, it should be mentioned that our late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru of revered memory evinced a deep interest in the study of Mahayana Buddhism. His famous and widely read book *The Discovery of India* bears an ample evidence about his deep knowledge and sublime realization of Mahayana Buddhism.

Paying tributes to His Holiness H. E. the Governor observed that His Holiness had a large following not only all over India, but also in many parts of the world with hundreds of spiritual Centres set up by him in both the east and the west. The latest Centre coming up now was no less a place than the capital of the country—New Delhi, with the active assistance of our Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi and of the Central Government.

H. E. the Governor next gave a resume of the functions and activities of this Institute, which had its inception in 1958 when the Prime Minister of India late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated it. He mentioned that the Institute had nearly 35,000 Tibetan Publications in its Library. It had thus world's largest number of Tibetan



Hon'ble Chief Minister delivering speech, on his right H. H. Gyalwa Karmapa and H. E. the Governor/ President : SRIT, on the background image of Manjushri.



*H. H. Gyalwa Karmapa flanked by H. E. Governor / President : SRIT, and Hon'ble Chief Minister
Shri N. B. Bhandari, Cabinet Ministers and other dignitaries.*

books, manuscripts and xylographs besides a large number of non-Tibetan books, icons and art objects in addition to many publications and picture post-cards for sale. It also publishes a quarterly *Journal Bulletin of Tibetology*, very popular, but should be more regular. He also referred to research work, fresh cataloguing, revision of old catalogues, indexing, micro-filming of such precious spiritual Gems Kanjur and Tanjur and continuous quest for acquisition of rare and precious books were being carried out all the time.

Five volumes of Rinchen Terdzod and three volumes of Kadam Phacho, containing the life and teachings of Atisa Dipankara Srijna had been completed so far.

He further pointed out that many scholars from all over the world had been visiting and taking advantage of the facilities provided by the Institute.

He also traced the history of the spread of Buddhism with special reference to its spread in Tibet and Sikkim.

The Governor also informed the audience about the meeting of the Executive Board held after a long time and many important decisions taken for enlarging the activities of the Institute and attracting more attention to its programmes. He also referred to the appointment of a permanent Director of the Institute and highly appreciated the services of the Acting Director, Yarpa T. S. Gyaltsen, Ex-Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim for his dedicated services for two and half years with missionary zeal and the appointment of Shri J. K. Rechung as Deputy Director.

The Governor of Sikkim hoped to have the benefit of the advice and guidance of H. H. the Gyalwa Karmapa in publication of rare and precious books on Mahayana Buddhism, biographies of Siddhas and saints and in acquiring antique and Mahayana art objects for the Institute.

Lastly, he concluded his speech with a three-word prayer from his religion Zoroastrianism "Manashni", "Gavashni", "Kunushni", mea-

ning "Good thoughts", "Good Words", "Good Deeds", the guiding principles of all religions in all countries over the world.

The popular Chief Minister of Sikkim, Sri Nar Bahadur Bhandari at the request of the Governor also addressed the gathering in extempore. He said that the importance of the occasion which could not be over-emphasised due to its sanctity was further heightened by H.H. the Gyalwa Karmapa's divine presence and the Governor of Sikkim, the Head of the State. He observed that the present Government of Sikkim got inspiration from Dharma in its effort to serve the people with a high standard of moral character and righteousness. He was eagerly looking forward to seeing the hill tops of Sikkim being decorated with numerous sacred shrines.

The Chief Minister remarked that under the leadership of the present Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, whose endeavours for the spiritual regeneration of the country were too well-known there would be a fresh light in the country, including our own state, Sikkim. She had been working shoulder to shoulder with her sister states of the country owing to her joining the main-stream of life of the country.

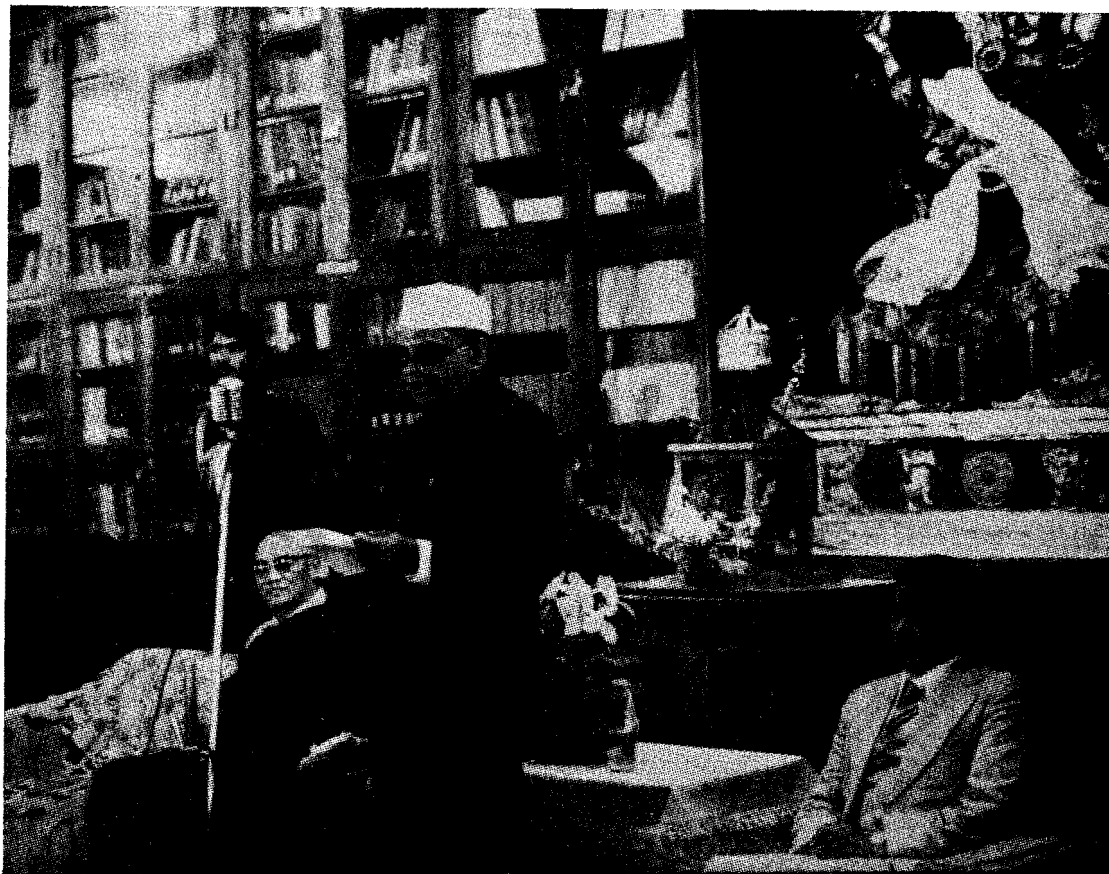
The Chief Minister expressed his deep thankfulness to the Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi for appointing the present Governor at his request who was taking keen interest in overall progress and welfare of this State—a Governor who really suited the need of the State.

He highly praised the Prime Minister for her keen interest for preserving religious and cultural art objects, real national wealth of the country, just like her illustrious father the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He further observed that Sikkim, the youngest State of India, had found a fresh lease of life with her blessings in both political and spiritual spheres.

He warmly thanked H. H. the Gyalwa Karmapa for setting a very worthy example by presenting the Sikkim Research Institute



Tibetan Kanjur and Other Tantric texts on the table for presentation.



His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim / President : SRIT, delivering speech in the Library Hall of the Institute. On the right His Holiness Gyalwa Karmapa and on the left Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri N. B. Bhandari, image of Manjushri on the back ground.

of Tibetology a complete set of Tibetan canonical literature (Kanjur) and 45 other Mahayana Tantric texts which are indeed most precious national wealth.

Lastly, he hoped that every citizen in the country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Assam to the borders of Pakistan would strengthen the hands of our beloved and popular Prime Minister in every sphere of her activities.

The Acting Director of Tibetology, Yarpa T. S. Gyaltsen proposed a vote of thanks to H. E. the Governor of Sikkim, His Holiness for gracing the occasion by His divine presence, Chief Minister and other Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, senior Civil and Army Officials and other invited guests for taking pains to come to his Institute, and make the occasion a grand success. In this context, he gave a brief resume of the contents of the Kanjur-the Tibetan canonical Literature explaining its various parts. He pointed out further that as distinct from the Kanjur there was the Tanjur consisting of 225 treaties divided into two sections Sutra (mdo) and Tantra (rgyud).

The ceremony was rounded off with light refreshment.

POINTS FROM SPEECH OF SHRI HOMI J. H. TALEYARKHAN,
GOVERNOR OF SIKKIM ON OCCASION OF PRESENTATION
OF 103 VOLUMES OF BUDDHIST LITERATURE BY HIS
HOLINESS THE GYALWA KARMAPA TO THE
INSTITUTE OF TIBETOLOGY ON THURSDAY,
24TH FEBRUARY, 1981

1. Warm welcome to H. H. the Gyalwa Karmapa, Mr. N. B Bhandari, Chief Minister, other Ministers and distinguished guests.
2. We are much beholden to H. H. for coming here all the way from Rumtek to present to the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology, the precious gift of 103 volumes of sacred Buddhist literature.

3. This gift will make a great addition to the Buddhist wealth of literature which the Institute possesses and will contribute substantially to the Research work being done here by Tibetan and Buddhist scholars.
4. H. H. has a large following not only all over India but also in many parts of the world with the hundreds of Centres he has started in the East and the West. The latest Centre coming up now is no less a place than the capital of our country, Delhi with the active assistance of our Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and of the Central Government.
5. Our Institute of which in my capacity as Governor I have the honour of being President, was inaugurated by our beloved Pandit-Jawaharlal Nehru in 1958. Over the years, it has rightly become world second to none in its authority on Tibetology.
6. Next year, we will be celebrating our Silver Jubilee when we hope to have our great Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to celebrate it.
7. With nearly 35,000 publications in its library, the institute has the world's largest number of Tibetan books, manuscripts and xylographs besides a large number of non-Tibetan literature, icons and art objects. In addition the Institute has many publications and cards for sale. It also publishes a quarterly Bulletin which is very popular but needs to be more regular.
8. The cataloguing of all our precious collection is now under way. Later the translation of a select number of books and manuscripts will be undertaken. Micro-filming of such precious spiritual gems as the Kangur and Tangur Encyclopaedia, Rinchen Terzod, have been undertaken. Much still remains to be done.
9. Research work, fresh cataloguing, revision of old catalogues, indexing, continuous quest for acquisition of rare and precious books are being carried out all the time. Five volumes of Rinchen Terzod and three volumes of the life and Teachings of Atisa Dipankara, have been completed so far.

10. Many scholars from all over the world have been visiting and taking advantage of the facilities provided by the Institute for years to learn of the Lamas who entered Sikkim nearly three centuries ago. Their history is traceable in some of the ancient books in this Institute.

11. Buddhism, a great unifying force, is purely of Indian origin and development. It flourished in our great country of India for about fifteen centuries.

12. Buddhism founded in Benares in the 5th century B. C. when and where Lord Buddha preached his first sermons and made his first converts at the site marked by the Sarnath Stupa.

13. Buddhism spread far and wide in India from the North Western provinces to the Gangetic Valley and to Bihar.

14. But it was the great Indian Emperor Ashoka in 3rd Century B. C., who made Buddhism the State religion. He sent many missionaries to many lands to spread the gospel of Buddhism.

15. It was from Ashoka's son, Mahindra, that Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, obtained its tenets of Buddhism. Buddhism spread like a holy and sacred fire through various countries including Mongolia, China, and Japan. It was established in China in 61 A.D.

16. In the 7th Century, it was Srong-Tsan Gampo's two Buddhist wives who speedily converted the young monarch to Buddhism and he promptly obtained from India books and teachers on Buddhism. That was how and when Buddhism came to Tibet.

17. Lamaism was founded by Padmasambhava and rose during the time of King Thi Srong De Tsan from 740 to 786 A.D. He built the first Buddhist monastery in Tibet in 749 A.D. Thus was established the first community of Lamas which has branched out into a number of sects of which the Karmapa is the earliest.

18. Buddhism was first introduced into Sikkim in the 17th century with the arrival of Lhatsun Chhembo. The first Karmapa monastery

was at To-Lung-Tshur Phu in 1150 A.D. and in Sikkim at Ralong in 1730 A.D. Later at Rumtek and Phodong whose illustrious head has given us the honour of being with us this morning.

19. We have decided to re-vitalise the activities of the Institute and let it be known far and wide not only historically but also in actual practice.

20. We hope to have the benefit of the advice of H. H. and his guidance in publication of rare and precious books on Buddhism, biographies of Siddhas and Saints. We would also seek his help in acquiring antiques and Mahayana art objects for the Institute, and also in improving the cataloguing work of the huge collection of Tibetan literature, both canonical and non-canonical.

21. We have already had a fourhour long meeting of the Executive Board of Directors held for the first time after a long time where Minister of Fincance and Ecclesiastical Affairs were both present and were of great assistance.

22. We have taken many decisions for enlarging the activities of the Institute and attracting more attention towards its programmes. It is immaterial whether we are Buddhists or not. The Institute is a seat of learning and we Indians with our many religions, respect all of them. That is the soul of our secularism.

23. We are going to have a permanent Director, The Acting Director, Mr. Gyaltsen, the former Chief Secretary, has been doing a dedicated job for the last two and half years with a missionary zeal. We have appointed a Deputy Director, Mr. Rechung and filled other vacancies and created some more posts.

24. Our budget and staff are small but the heart and the will are big. And with the CM and Finance Minister right here and a host of well wishers in the audience, we have really nothing much to worry about, if we can show the results.

25. It is no use asking for more, unless we can prove we are really hard-up. But our very hard working Acting Director will have no difficulty proving that.

26. Perhaps next year, we will certainly need more funds in addition to the fund of goodwill that we have so much in abundance. And that is because, as I said earlier, 1982 marks our Silver Jubilee which will call for programmes of celebration and new schemes on a big scale.

27. I am sure there will be no need of a silver lining in our Silver Jubilee because there are no clouds in our skies. They are all blue in the heavens above and with the shower of blessings we are presently going to receive from H. H. I am sure they shall ever so remain.

28. I will conclude with a three word prayer from my own religion, Zoroastrianism, 'Manasni', 'Gavashni', 'Kunushni,' meaning "Good Thought, Good Words, Good Deeds", which are the guiding principles of all religions in all countries over the world.

29. Now a few words from our popular Chief Minister, Mr. Bhandari, who besides in his own religion, believes in what is also a religion, the religion of the economic welfare of the people of India of which Sikkim is such an important part, and which, under the inspiration of our national leader, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, he has made an article of faith of his Government.

UNVEILING OF PORTRAITS OF NATIONAL LEADERS

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister of Commerce paid a visit to Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology, on the 12th September 1981, accompanied by H. E. the Governor of Sikkim (President SRIT), Chief Minister and Cabinet Ministers. Shri Mukherjee was warmly received on his arrival by Dr. A. C. Banerjee, Director SRIT, Yarpa T. S. Gyaltsen, Ex-Board member, J. K. Rechung, Deputy Director : SRIT. and other members of the SRIT by offering scarves (khadas) to

him. He was then taken round the Institute. He was highly impressed with the rich collections of Sanskrit, Tibetan and other valuable antique objects.

There after, Shri Mukherjee unveiled the portraits of great National leaders—Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru of revered memory and Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the much adored leader and Prime Minister of India. H. E. Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan Governor of Sikkim/President of the Institute presided over the function which was attended by Chief Minister and other Cabinet Ministers, Judges, MLAs and other respected gentries.

Explaining the relevance of unveiling of the Portraits of the National Leaders in a Research Institute like the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology, the Union Minister pointed out that these national leaders possessed some extraordinary human qualities unlike other dead or living leaders of the world. They had great regard for cultural traditions and heritage of our country. Their high thoughts could be translated and implemented in our way of life in order to fulfill the lofty objectives of the leaders. By having the portraits of these leaders hung up in the Institute, it would certainly draw inspirations from those great mighty souls.

The Union Minister expressed his pleasure to be associated with the Institute inaugurated by the late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru some decades back.

He urged those present to observe the lofty ideals and noble principles of Lord Buddha in their day to day lives. He further felt that for pursuit of knowledge this Institute would be able to preserve its pristine purity of purpose.

Earlier H. E. the Governor of Sikkim/President SRIT presiding over the function observed that it was indeed an auspicious occasion when the portraits of the three great national leaders were going to be unveiled at the hand of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister of Commerce.

He further reminded the audience that the Institute was inaugurated by the late Panditji in October 1958. A recording of the then inaugural speech by Panditji was played on the occasion. The whole audience listened to it with rapt attention.

The Governor disclosed that the three-day celebration of Silver Jubilee of the Institute would be inaugurated some time in December 1981 at the hands of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. A seminar with the distinguished scholars eminent in the domain of Buddhist studies from all over the country, as participants and contributors, would also be held on the occasion and Special Volume would also be brought out.

He further added that this Institute had been honoured by the President and Prime Minister of our country becoming honorary patrons. This is in fact a rare and unparalleled privilege for the Institute.

The Governor also informed the audience that the Executive Board had appointed Dr. Anukul Chandra Banerjee, M.A., LL.B., Ph.D., F.A.S., F.R.A.S., (London), an eminent Buddhist Scholar of the country, as permanent Director of the Institute. A membership scheme had been introduced and a drive to make Ordinary, Life, Institutional members had already started and over 12,000/- had been collected so far.

He also announced that the centre had doubled the grant from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs per year with matching grant from the State Government. He added that micro-filming of precious manuscripts and xylographs would shortly be started with an expert technician.

He also referred to the manifold activities undertaken by the Institute, such as, cataloguing and indexing of precious books, valuable antique objects, printing of new books and the like.

He disclosed further that our Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi was anxious about safety of Gompas (monastic) treasures comprising of priceless idols and images.

He observed that the unveiling of the portraits of National leaders at the hands of the Union Minister for Commerce would be a source of inspiration to all.

Speaking at the function, Shri N. B. Bhandari, the Chief Minister reacting to the Prime Minister's anxiety, observed that the honesty of our people was the greatest means of safeguard of the monasteries in Sikkim. He further pointed out that we should pursue the path chalked by the Panditji.

He urged the people to have faith in three guiding principle 'Peace', 'National Unity' and 'Economic Progress', and felt assured of our Prime Minister's still greater love for Sikkim, if the three-fold path was followed.

Dr. A. C. Banerjee, Director, SRIT, proposed a vote of thanks.

SRIT to open on Sundays and other holidays :

By popular demand H. E. the Governor of Sikkim, President SRIT has decided to keep the Institute open on Sundays and all other holidays from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. in order to enable the public to take advantage of the holiday to visit the Institute and see its rich treasures of Buddhist and Tibetan literature and publications, idols, images and icons.

SRIT-Membership Drive :

Since H. E. Shri Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan, the Governor of Sikkim become its President, its activities in its different spheres have largely expanded. Because of the great interest shown in the SRIT by the public, a membership has been open for those interested on payment of Rs. 100/- per annum for an Ordinary member, Rs. 1,000/- for Life Member and Rs. 1,500/- for an Institutional/Unit of Army. An appeal in this regard was published in Sikkim Herald and some local newspapers, many individuals and Institutions have already responded to our appeal.

Since June last our endeavours for membership drive have been producing good results. So far thirty-four (34) members have applied for membership. Thirty members have already been admitted by our President. Below are given the names of the members according to categories.

<i>Name of the members</i>	<i>Category</i>
1] H. E. Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan, The Governor of Sikkim, President SRIT	Life
2] Sri Nar Bahadur Bhandari, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim	"
3] Shri Kaiser Bahadur Thapa, Sikkim Traders International, National Highway, Gangtok.	"
4] H. H. the late Gyalwa Karmapa Shedup Chokharling (Dharma Chakra Centre) Rumtek.	Institutional
5] Shri R. K. Banerji, Chief Engineer, Project Swastik (for the Organisation)	"
6] H. Q. 17 MTN. Div. C/o, 99 A. P. O.	"
7] Sikkim Distilleries Ltd. Rangpo, (Sikkim).	"
8] Ven. Samdong Rimpoche, Principal Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi (U. P.)	"
9] Shri A. N. Dhawan, Secretary, Sangeet Natak Academy, Rabindra Bhavan, Feroz Shah Road, New Delhi.	"
10] Miss Premlata Puri, Director, Centre for Cultural Resources and training Bahawalpur House, Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi.	"

- 11] Shri Kashiraj Pradhan, Ordinary
Lakshmi Nivas, Gangtok.
- 12] Yarpa T. S. Gyaltsen,
Retired Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sikkim,
(Ex-Acting Director, SRIT).
- 13] Lingmo Yarpa D. Dahdul,
Retired Chief Secretary,
Govt. of Sikkim.
- 14] Shri M. P. Pradhan, Chief Secretary,
Govt. of Sikkim, Development Area,
Gangtok.
- 15] Shri C. D. Rai, Secretary SNT & Excise,
Govt. of Sikkim.
- 16] Rai Bahadur T. D. Densapa of Athingla of Burmiok
Rtd. Civil Servant, Cherry Bank, Gangtok.
- 17] Shri Dorjee D. Norkhang,
Head Lama, Paljor Namgyal Girls High School,
Gangtok,
- 18] Mr. John Jackson,
C/o Denzong Automobile Pvt-Ltd,
National Highway, Gangtok.
- 19] Shri Mahavir Prasad Agarwal, Director,
Denzong Automobiles Pvt. Ltd.,
Gangtok.
- 20] Shri Jiwan Agarwal, Partner, C/o Balchand
Udairam. Gangtok.
- 21] Shri V. D. Sharma. Dy. Director-in-charge,
S. T. S. I., Tadong, Gangtok.
- 22] Shri Chiman Lal Grover, Amar Traders,
Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Gangtok.
- 23] Shri Mamraj Agarwal, Proprietor,
Mokam Ram Gangatram, Gangtok.

24]	Shri Sitaram Agarwal, Proprietor, Sikkim Housing Factory, Rangpo, Sikkim.	Ordinary
25]	Shri Biharilal Agarwal, Proprietor, Bansal Trading Co. Gangtok.	"
26]	Shri D. D. Mundra, Agent, Bata Shoes, Bata Agency, Gangtok.	"
27]	Shri N. D. Lama, Govt. Contractor, Kanchen-View. Deorali, Gangtok.	"
28]	Ven. Ringu Tulku, Lecturer in Tibetan, Govt. College, Gangtok	"
29]	Shri Khyaliram Singhi, Chhota Bank, Gangtok.	"
30]	Shri Ramchandra Verma, Jewellery Business, Lal Market Road, Gangtok.	"
31]	Shri Murali Dhar Joshi, Travel Agent, Lal Marekt Road, Gangtok.	"
32]	Shri K. N. Dewan. Proprietor, General Stores. Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Gangtok.	"
33]	Ven. Khenpo Dechen Dorjee, Khenpo (Principal) Nyingma Sheda College, Gangtok.	"
34]	Shri Ishwar Singhal, Proprietor of firm, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Gangtok.	"

Guide Book to SRIT

A Guide to the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology is under preparation. It will enable the visitors to have an overall idea of the Institute's rich collection.

A Guide will be available to explain to the visitors what they are seeing on ground, first and second floors and the research works being done in the Institute.

Distinguished Visitors to SRIT (July-September) 1981

During the period many distinguished persons visited the Institute of Tibetology. Here are given their names as also a few selected observations (January-September, 81).

Following dignitaries visited the Institute during the third quarter of the year (July-September, 1981). Shri D. B. Bist, D. G. H. S., New Delhi on 7-8-81, Dr. Charanjit Channana, Union Minister of State for Industries, 6-9-81. Shri Vasanta Dada Patil, member of Parliament, General Secretary, All India Congress Committee (I), New Delhi, on 26-8-81, Captain Manga Ram MLA Haryana, Chandhigarh, Shri V. I. Pandey, Deputy Registrar General India on 11-9-81, Shri M. L. Gulati, Deputy Director of R. G. I. New Delhi on 11-9-81, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister of Commerce on 12-9-81 and Shri Shivaraj V. Patil, Union Minister of State for Defence, 29-9-81

OPINIONS OF THE DISTINGUISHED VISITORS
TO SRIT

H. E. SHRI HOMI J. H. TALEYARKHAN

A wealth of learning—a reservoir of Inspiration. The Institute has become a fountain-head of erudition, meditation and of dedication of the great ancient Buddhist religion the World over. Every endeavour should be made to sustain and strengthen the ideals and activities of the Institute which was inaugurated by no less an international personage and our own great national leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Sd/- Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan
Governor of Sikkim and President of
S. R. I. T. Gangtok.
19th January, 1981

H H. XVI GYALWA KARMAPA

May good luck and happiness prevail and let the victorious banner of Dharma flutter for ever.

Sd/- Gyalwa Karmapa
Supreme head of Kargyupaorder
Dharma Chakra Centre
Rumtek, Gangtok.
24.2.1981

SHRI N. B. BHANDARI

I am fortunate to attend this excellent function today.

Sd/- N. B. Bhandari
Chief Minister, Sikkim
24.2.1981

SHRI SANCHAMAN LIMBU

It is a praiseworthy function celebrated with all distinguish guest and His Holiness G. Karmapa and H. E. Governor.

Sd/- Sanchaman Limbu
Minister for Health,
Education and Industries
Govt of Sikkim
24.2.1981

SHRI SAMTEN TSERING

On this auspicious day I got opportunity to Darshana of "Karmapa" and had a light refreshment with him. I'll do hope in near future too.

Sd/- Samten Tsering
P. W. D. Minister,
Govt. of Sikkim.
24 2.1981

VEN. LACHEN GOMCHEN RINPOCHE

May all people including hidden valley of Sikkim be free from the affliction of disease, weapon and famine.

Sd/- Ven. Lachen Gomchen Rinpoche
Minister
Govt. of Sikkim
24.2.1981

SHRI TULSHI SHARMA

I am fortunate enough to be in the centre of learning like Tibetology today.

Sd/- Tulshi Sharma
Agriculture Minister,
Govt. of Sikkim
24.2.1981

SHRI SHERAB PALDEN LEPCHA

May good luck and happiness prevail.

Sd/- Sherab Palden Lepcha
Minister of Finance,
Govt. of Sikkim
24.2.1981

SHRI S. MALHOTRA

It was very interesting & educative visit. Thank you.

Sd/- S. Malhotra
9th March '81

SHRI A. C. VAIDYA

It was most educative and interesting to visit the Institute as also gratifying to see how well it was kept and the old volumes, relics and writings, being looked after.

Sd/- A. C. Vaidya
Lt. Gen. 4 corps
23 March '81

SHRI DEREK BLEAHLE

With sincere gratitude. I would very much like to have spent longer with you and hope to return one day.

Sd/- Derek Bleahle
British Consulate General Osaka, Japan
23rd March, '81

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN

I am deeply impressed by the wealth of material gathered in this Institute of Tibetology. The manuscripts and publications are invaluable and need to be preserved. The devotion with which the Institute attends to this great task compels one's admiration. I wish the Institute continued success in this field.

Sd/- R. Venkataraman
Union Minister for Finance, New Delhi.
5th April, '81

SHRI R. T. RUMALAI

I am looking to the conservation of the great work being done in the form of a Catalogous Catalogorum of the manuscripts, as a student of history & research.

Sd/- R. T. Rumalai
Member, Economic Administrative Reforms
Commission, New Delhi,
AB 83 Shah Jahan Road, N. Delhi-110 011.

SHRI R. PATNAIK

It is by sheer luck that I could visit this Institute which in my opinion is a most valuable treasury of books of knowledge. There is lot to learn here about the different stages of growth of Buddhism. The humanity will greatly benefit if these valuable books are translated into English language. I wish and hope that this institution will continue to get Govt. patronage. The Director and others who took

us round and explained many things in detail are really knowledgeable persons. They really deserve our thanks and appreciation.

Sd/- R. Patnaik
Minister, Finance, Orissa,
10.4.1981

SHRI JATIN CHAKRABARTY

Sikkim Institute of Tibetology is a reputed centre for research on Tibetan Culture & Religious Traditions. Its collection of very many scriptures on various aspects of Buddhism and rare idols is a great treasure of the country. Those who are doing research on this branch of Indian art and culture have been and will be benefitted immensely from this Institute. The Institute is contributing to preserve this Indian treasure of the cultural heritage of the country.

Sd/- Jatin Chakrabarty
PWD & Housing Minister, West Bengal
11.4.1981

SHRI AMIYA KUMAR SEN

I am very happy at this opportunity to visit Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology. It has a vast treasure of Tibetan arts and literature and there is so much more to do in the field of research. It is very much necessary to inform the public of the things that are being done here. It is only through our understanding of Buddha's teachings that we can strive for peace which is now the most important thing in the World.

My best wishes to the Director and all members of the staff of this unique Institute.

Sd/- Amiya Kumar Sen
Chief Secretary, West Bengal
11.4.1981

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK

It was a great pleasure to visit this Institute for the second time. The institute is the pride of the country for the rare manuscripts which are preserved here with much great care. For a scholar in Tibetology, this Institute is a place of pilgrimage and for any Indian who has a love for the country's culture and heritage. This contains a wealth of information about India's cultural relations with Tibet over centuries of the past.

Sd/- J. B. Patnaik
Chief Minister, Orissa,
11.4.1981

SHRI K. C. LENKA

I am deeply impressed to see the huge volumes of manuscripts preserved.

Sd/- K. C. Lenka
Revenue Minister, Orissa
11.4.1981

SHRI INDRAJIT BEDI

It has been a most pleasant and instructive visit. I learnt much in the short time I could spend this morning.

Sd/- Indrajit Bedi
14.4.1981

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN

What a source of inspiration, this serene temple of learning and treasure of the wisdom of spiritual yore ! Passing across the library hall I could not help recalling those of days of Lord Buddha in quest of the spiritual bliss, mental peace and eternal truth. My salute to those who keep that imperishable past to live on inspiring and guiding man in his quest for peace and truth.

My best wishes.

Sd/- C. M. Stephen
Minister of Communication, Govt. of India,
New Delhi,
19.4.1981

Mr. RAYMOND S. PERKINSON

It was a special personal satisfaction for my wife and me to be able to visit the Institute of Tibetology on this, our second visit to Sikkim. During our stay in India we have learned to our pleasant surprise of the growing interest in our own country in Tibetan religion, art and culture. Many Tibetan scholars have visited America, showing their wisdom and enlightenment with many of our countrymen, who have started centres for the study of Tibetan Buddhism there. What a pleasure, therefore, for us to visit a senior centre for such studies here in India and to meet a few of the dedicated scholars who work and study here. May the Institute prosper and flourish !

Sd/- Raymond S. Perkinson
American Consul General, Calcutta, India
April 21, 1981.

SHRI VASANT SATHE

It is a honour and privilege to visit this library where some of the most rare ancient manuscripts have been carefully preserved. They deserve to be translated in modern Indian languages. Congratulation to the Govt. of Sikkim and the Director and his staff for the work of dedicated devotion.

Sd/- Vasant Sathe
Minister of Information and Broadcasting,
Govt. of India.
24.4.1981

SHRI S. SHARMA

It has been a great education and an experience to go through the Institute. The relics, thankas, & figures all have an awesome beauty, quite unique and so expressive of what is beyond the

apparent form. The library itself is beyond our limited knowledge, but one is impressed by the care taken to preserve these sacred writings and the obvious use being made of them to further our knowledge of the ancient and their teachings. I hope the institution goes from strength to strength and continues to attract dedicated scholars.

Sd/- S. Sharma
Lt. Gen.
Engineer in Chief, Army Headquarters
25th April 1981

SHRI V. P. GUPTA

It has been very educative. One is proud to know the interest being taken in Research in Tibetology. Our congratulations to the staff.

Sd/- V. P. Gupta
Brig.
HQ Eastern Command, Calcutta.
27.4.81

SHRI P. H. VAISHNAV

I was very lucky to have decided to visit this Institute. It is an enormously rich treasure of knowledge and I hope that it is maintained, enlarged and used by scholars.

Sd/- P. H. Vaishnav
Joint Secretary (State Plans)
Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan,
Sansad Marg New Delhi-110 001
30.4.1981

SHRI M. L. MAHAJAN

I was lucky that I visited this place. The Curater has been very good and has full knowledge. He explained everything. The library has been maintained well.

Sd/- M. L. Mahajan
Chairman & Managing Director
Ambassador Travels Over Seas,
New Delhi.
2-5-1981

SHRI C. L. CHANDRAKAR

Institute of Tibetology of Gangtok brings before visitor's eyes history of India and Tibet of last two thousands years. In my short visit I got the glimpse of glory of Buddhism—teachings of Lord Buddha and spiritual sons of the Great Lord.

This institute needs encouragement from Government and also public. This institute is really serving the country in much bigger way than looks apparently.

Sd/- C. L. Chandrakar,
Union Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation,
New Delhi.
2.5.1981

SHRI K. K. SRIVASTAVA

It was my great fortune to visit this Institute. A place of great peace and wisdom.

Sd/- K. K. Srivastava
Director General of Tourism,
Govt. of India.
2.5.1981

SHRI A. B. TRIPATHI

A really fantastic collection of the ancient documents, preserved with a lot of care. One thing that strikes me is why all this MSS knowledge has not been translated so that the world could know the contents. Microfilming of all the documents is a must. I wish more scholars are encouraged to take up study here.

Sd/- A. B. Tripathi
Director, DCIE, M.H.A. New Delhi.
5.5.1981

Dr. N. H. SAMTANI

Very happy to visit this excellent Institute.

Sd/- N. H. Samtani
Reader in Pali & Buddhism,
Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi-221 005
11.5.1981

Mr. W. S. BILL

A treasury of a great culture beautifully preserved.

Sd/- W. S. Bill
Singapore
21.5.1981

Mrs. KATHARINE BILL

I see that this is the most fascinating library I have ever been to. Decorations are beautiful.

Sd/- Katharine Bill
9 Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.
21.5 1981

Mr. PAULA J. LELU BOULDER

It has been a privilege to visit here.

Sd/- Paula J. Lelu Boulder,
Colorado, U.S.A.
21.5.1981

Mr. STEWART & JOY NEAL

A most interesting & rewarding and being all too brief. Visit during our stay in Gangtok we are most grateful for all the help & information given us and hope we shall be able to return.

Sd/- Stewart & Joy Neal
London W. L. 11
21.5.1981

H. E. SHRI T. N. SINGH

Very instructive and educative short visit. I wish I could have found more time to learn what our learned ancients write for us.

Sd/- T. N. Singh,
Governor of West Bengal,
29.5.1981

SHRI I. J. PATEL

I am so happy that this museum not only preserves precious manuscripts and objects of worship but succeeds also in recreating the atmosphere of pity and scholarship which is reminiscent of our old temples. I hope and trust the Institute will never lack in services to continue in good work.

Sd/- I. J. Patel,
Governor, Reserve Bank of India,
3rd June 1981

SHRI RAFIQ ZAKARIA

It was, indeed, a privilege to see the various exhibits in this unique Institute. I hope better use of them can be made by linking this Institute with J. N. University, where Buddhism is being taught in all its aspects.

Sd/- Rafiq Zakaria,
M. P., Member Secretary,
High Power Panel for Minorities, S.C. & S.T.
Government of India.
9.6.1981

SHRI S. S. CHADHA

I and my family are immensely impressed by the efforts made to keep in one place the literature and teachings of Lord Buddha in its many forms - manifestations of the translation from Sanskrit scriptures into Tibetan language. It has really enlightened us in the subject. I wish success to the Institute in its pursuits.

Sd/-S. S. Chadha
Justice S. S. Chadha
High Court Delhi,
New Delhi.
10.6.1981

SHRI RAM NARAIN

I, along with my companion members of Public Accounts committee Haryana, visited this Institution. We were all much

pleased to have seen the old documents and manuscripts. They throw great in relations of India with Tibet. We also met one or two research scholars who are doing good work on research aspect.

Thanks.

Sd/- Ram Narian
Chairman PAC, Haryana
12.6.1981

SHRI J. D. JAIN

It is rewarding to visit the Institute of Tibetology. They have taken pain in preserving ancient original manuscripts on Buddhism and translating them in different language. They are apparently doing excellent job.

Sd/- J. D. Jain
Judge High Court of Delhi,
New Delhi.
15.6.1981

SHRI C. S. TEWARI

I paid a visit to the Institute of Tibetology today with the members of my family. We were wonder struck with treasure of knowledge enshrined here. We pray that this knowledge should be known to the world at large. The Institute is very well maintained.

Sd/-G. S. Tewari
Judge Punjab & Haryana High Court
Chandigarh,
22.6.1981.

SHRI D. B. BIST

Our visit to the Institute has been an unique experience. This only furthers the concept of Unity in Disunity. Our ancient Indian wisdom coming back to us from different sources. Let the noble work the Institute is doing bring back the total integration of spiritual vital and physical for our preparation towards enlightenment.

Sd/- D. B. Bist
D. G. H. S. New Delhi
7th August 1981.

SHRI K. K. NANDA

The visit to the Institute has been most interesting and educative. It is heartening to see the effort being put in to preserve the rare documents and to make the same available to the research students for posterity. It is the heritage of which we all shall be proud.

Sd/- K. K. Nanda
Major General, HQ 4 Corps.
18.8.1981

MISS VIJEYA PATIL

The old literature is preserved with great care. I myself was very much impressed by it. It will be a great help to the history students.

Sd/- Miss Vijeya Patil
25.8.1981

SHRI VASANTADADA PATIL

Today I have the opportunity to visit the Tibetology. The Tibetans have translated numerous Indian books into Tibetan, this is indeed unique. Here is a treasure of learning which is being rendered into English for sale. I am extremely glad to see that although the work is very laborious, yet it is being done with great pleasure. It is, therefore, most desirable that the work should be continued. I wish the Institute all success.

Sd/- Vasantadada Patil
Member of Parliament,
General Secretary
All India Congress Committee (I)
New Delhi.
26-8-1981

CAPTAIN MANGA RAM.

I the Captain Manga Ram MLA Chairman Committee of Welfare of Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe Haryana Vidhan Sabbha

along with the members of staff and Committee found that it is a rare collection of the Sikkim Institute of Tibetology (Gangtok) material relating to the desires given by the Lord Buddha.

Sd/- Captain Manga Ram
MLA Haryana
Chandigarh
3.9.1981

DR. CHARANJIT CHANNANA

SRIT is perhaps the richest centre of research on Tibetology and Buddhist religion—so much as that increasing in depth research should highlight the teaching to the benefit of as many people of the country as possible.

Sd/- Dr. Charanjit Channana
Union Minister of State for
Industries,
6 Sept. 1981.

SHRI V. T. PANDEY

This visit was an eye opener. And one weeps when one considers how this priceless treasures accumulated through centuries of wisdom & learning, was trampled underfoot by a handful of barbarians.

Sd/- V. T. Pandey
Deputy Registrar-General, India
11 Sept. 1981.

SHRI M. L. GULATI

The visit is highly educative and Informative.

Sd/- M. L. Gulati
Deputy Director C/o R.G.I. 2A, Man Singh Road,
New Delhi.
11 Sept. 1981.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE

I was very happy to visit the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology on 13th of September, 1981, and deem it a privilege to have been given the opportunity to unveil the Portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi in this Institute.

This Institute which was set up in 1956 has a rare collection of manuscripts presented by distinguished personalities like Dalai Lama. The message of Buddhism was carried to Tibet around the 7th Century A. D. by the Great Bengali Scholar Shri Atish Dipankara Shreegyan who at that time was Acharya of Vikramshila Mahavihar. Since then the cultural bonds between Tibet and India have grown and affinity between the people of India and the people of Tibet has become traditional. In this background, the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology is doing excellent work by being a centre for compilation of historical documents and providing facilities for research work in this field.

Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi, apart from being leading Statesmen have also devoted their lives in pursuit of discovering the true soul and philosophical values of the Indian people. The philosophy propounded by these leaders have eternal values which cut across religious and political barriers and provides a basis for promoting universal brotherhood, It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that this Institute should have decided to honour and draw inspiration from these great leaders by having their Portraits in its premises.

Sd/- Pranab Mukherjee
Minister of Commerce, India.
12.9.1981

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL

The collection of the ancient literature is of the rarest quality. The manner in which it is arranged and displayed shows as to how greatly it is valued and loved. It is some thing which much be preserved and propogated. Those who are looking after it deserve our congratulations and gratitude.

Sd/- Shivraj V. Patil,
Union Minister of State
for Defence,
29.9.1981